

# H. R. 222.

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JANUARY 25, 1821.

Read twice, and committed to a committee of the whole House  
to-morrow.

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## A BILL

*To authorize the occupation of the Columbia River, and to regulate the intercourse with the Indian tribes within the United States and territories thereof.*

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3   That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby,  
4   authorized and required to occupy that portion of the territory  
5   of the United States, on the waters of the Columbia river, and  
6   to extinguish the Indian title to a district of country not ex-  
7   ceeding                   miles square, on the borders of said  
8   river, in the region of tide water, and that                   acres of  
9   land be allowed to each actual settler, being the head of a fa-  
10   mily; and to each unmarried man, between the age of eighteen  
11   and forty-five years, who shall establish himself in said dis-  
12   trict, and cultivate ground therein, within                   years  
13   after the Indian title shall be extinguished thereto.

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the President  
2   shall prescribe regulations for the government of said district.

3 and the administration of justice therein, and appoint the  
4 necessary officers for carrying the same into effect.

1       **SEC. 3.** *And be it further enacted,* That the President be  
2 authorized to open a port of entry, as soon as he shall deem  
3 it expedient, within the said district, and to appoint custom-  
4 house officers for the regulation of the same, from and after  
5 which time the revenue laws of the United States shall be  
6 extended over said district, and be of full force therein.

1       **SEC. 4.** *And be it further enacted,* That the President  
2 be authorized and required to appoint agents for the Indian  
3 tribes on the waters of the Columbia, and to fix the salaries  
4 of the agents so appointed, not exceeding the salary now al-  
5 lowed to the agent to the Indians on the upper Missouri;  
6 and that, from and after such appointment, all the laws of the  
7 United States, for regulating intercourse with the Indian  
8 tribes, shall be deemed and held to be in full force throughout  
9 the territories inhabited by the said tribes.

1       **SEC. 5.** *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be  
2 a superintendent of Indian affairs, who shall reside at St.  
3 Louis, and all the Indian agents to the different tribes on the  
4 waters of the upper Mississippi, the lakes Michigan, Erie,  
5 and Superior, and the waters of Missouri, Arkansaw, Red  
6 River, and Columbia, shall be under his control and direction,  
7 and shall correspond with him, and through him to the De-  
8 partment of War. The said superintendent shall be author-

9 ized and required, to grant all licenses to Indian traders, and  
 10 shall have over them a general superintendence; that each  
 11 trader shall make a full and accurate report to him, of the  
 12 state and condition of the Indians with whom they trade, at  
 13 least once a month, and the superintendent shall forward the  
 14 same, digested into a general report, to the Department of  
 15 War, once in three months, or oftener, if thereto required.

1        **SEC. 6.** *And be it further enacted,* That so much of every  
 2 act which establishes a superintendency of Indian affairs at  
 3 Washington City, and so much of every act which establishes  
 4 factories among the Indian tribes, be, and the same is hereby,  
 5 repealed.

1        **SEC. 7.** *And be it further enacted,* That the property in  
 2 the hands of the superintendent of Indian affairs at Washing-  
 3 ton City, and the respective factors in the service of the  
 4 United States, be sold, and the proceeds accounted for, in such  
 5 manner as the Secretary of the Department of War may  
 6 direct.

1        **SEC. 8.** *And be it further enacted,* That licenses shall  
 2 not be granted to trade with any of the Indian tribes, to any  
 3 but citizens of the United States, of approved moral character,  
 4 and of ability to embark at least                dollars, annually, in  
 5 the trade; and every trader obtaining a license so to trade,  
 6 shall have a fixed habitation, to which end he may lease from  
 7 the tribe where such habitation is fixed, a tract of land not

8 exceeding                      miles square, and for a term not exceed-  
 9 ing                      years, nor shall it be within                      miles  
 10 of a similar location previously made; and shall have leave  
 11 to trade within the limits of their respective licenses; that  
 12 each trader shall set up a black-smith's shop, and shall supply  
 13 the Indians with such working tools as they may be willing  
 14 to purchase; and, are hereby required to cultivate, at their  
 15 establishments, the different kinds of grain and fruit, which  
 16 the climate and soil will produce; and shall rear the domestic  
 17 animals in common use; and shall furnish seed and stock  
 18 animals to such Indians as may wish to buy them, and shall  
 19 induce them to cultivate the soil and rear the domestic ani-  
 20 mals. Nor shall any trader be permitted to sell to any of  
 21 the Indian tribes ardent spirits of any kind, under the penalty,  
 22 of                      dollars for every such offence, and shall, ever after,  
 23 be debarred the privilege of trading with any Indian tribe.  
 24 Each trader shall pay                      dollars, annually, for his  
 25 license, but it shall be granted during good behaviour, upon  
 26 his giving bond, with sufficient security, which shall be  
 27 judged of by the superintendent, and may, by him, be re-  
 28 quired to give additional security in proportion to his addi-  
 29 tional capital employed, every two years; the license to be  
 30 annulled for breach of conditions, which shall be determined  
 31 by the verdict of a jury.

1                      SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That the money paid

2 to the superintendent annually, for licenses, by the Indian  
 3 traders, shall be, by him, appropriated to the purchase of any  
 4 kind of seed, or domestic animals, for such Indians as may  
 5 want to cultivate such seed, or rear such animals; but if, at  
 6 the end of the year, there should be money remaining in his  
 7 hands, accruing from this fund, he shall make payment of it  
 8 into the Treasury of the United States, where it shall be kept  
 9 as a distinct fund; to be applied to the building of mills in  
 10 such place and manner, among the different tribes, as the  
 11 President may direct; and it is hereby made the duty of the  
 12 agent who has the care of the affairs of that tribe, where such  
 13 mill is built, to superintend the building of the same, and to  
 14 transmit an accurate account of his disbursements to the su-  
 15 perintendent, and by him to the Department of War.

1        *SEC. 10. And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the  
 2 duty of every Indian agent to report to the superintendent  
 3 of Indian affairs, upon the state and condition of the Indians,  
 4 and the conduct of the traders, within their respective agencies,  
 5 at least once a month, and oftener if thereto required; the said  
 6 reports to be made in the form prescribed by the Secretary of  
 7 the Department of War, and upon all such points as may be  
 8 indicated by the said Department; and the superintendent  
 9 shall forward the same, digested into a general report, to the  
 10 Department of War, at least once in three months, and as  
 11 much oftener as may be required.

1        **SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted,*** That all Indian  
2 agents, not under the direction of the superintendent as  
3 herein directed, shall be authorized to issue licenses to traders  
4 within the limits of the Indian territory under their authority,  
5 and shall correspond directly with the Department of War.

1        **SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted,*** That the sum of  
2 dollars is hereby appropriated to carry into effect the provi-  
3 sions of this act, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury,  
4 not otherwise appropriated.